

Scope and Purpose of the Plan

This fire mitigation plan is designed to be used as a reference text and an interactive document that lists and tracks fire mitigation tasks to be accomplished on private property. During a series of public workshops held in December of 2003 and March and April of 2004, ***Desired Outcomes*** of this Fire Mitigation Plan were identified by participants who were fire officials, civic leaders and citizens. Through workshop discussions participants were asked to formulate and explain their ***Vision*** of a Fire Mitigation Plan. This plan responds to the ***Desired Outcomes*** and to the fire agencies' current operating capabilities by providing recommendations that are displayed in the form of Goals, Objectives and Action Items. Eleven fire-prevention-oriented ***Goals*** were formulated as a result of public workshops and extensive interviews with each fire agency. Goals represent Desired Outcomes identified through the public process. Each chapter of this plan focuses on one of the identified Goals to present that Goal - with recommendations - for accomplishing a Desired Outcome. Every Goal is accompanied by several ***Objectives*** and many ***Actions*** which serve as substantive recommendations for achieving Desired Outcomes by establishing and accomplishing Goals. Each Goal chapter may be used as a stand-alone working document or in conjunction with the other chapters. Goals are presented at the beginning of each chapter of the Plan with a description and are followed by an associated set of tools for use in accomplishing the Goal.

Tools associated with each Goal include:

- A Goal ***Description***
- A set of ***Objectives*** that break the Goal down into manageable areas of accomplishment
- An ***Action Spreadsheet*** listing recommended projects for accomplishing Objectives toward meeting the Goal
- ***Visual Aids*** such as maps, web sites, informational pamphlets or pictorial examples that demonstrate techniques to apply to accomplish Objectives and meet the Goal.

Goals may be assigned to a fire official or team of firefighters to be approached as a stand-alone project by focusing on the associated tools and information provided in each chapter. The Goals are also interrelated so many of the tools and tasks are appropriate for tackling more than one Goal. To ensure effective fire mitigation and the highest level of fire prevention, all Goals should ultimately be viewed collectively as mutually important components of a complete fire mitigation plan.

Following each Goal description and associated set of Objectives is an Action Spreadsheet. Action Spreadsheets display the Goal and its description at the top of the sheet. Objectives of that Goal are also listed on the Action Spreadsheet down the left side column. A list of Actions accompanies each Objective. Action Spreadsheets also provide columns detailing potential funding sources and likely agencies or organizations with which to partner on mitigation activities. Finally, the last two columns on the far right side of the Action Spreadsheets provide suggested milestones and starting dates for initiating Actions and Objectives. These Action Spreadsheets are available on compact disc for interactive use and for on-going modifications and updates. They should function as a flexible, changeable work tool for planning and implementing fuels mitigation and fire prevention projects.

Included with each Goal are visual tools to assist in understanding the fire management issues. Visual tools might include maps, educational brochures and pamphlets, Firewise information, Code information and the like. Maps are designed to orient the user to sites of interest or concern for fuels mitigation. Actual vegetation and fuel types found and recorded at various sites are mapped to demonstrate their relevance and impact on the associated fire mitigation Goal. Maps are also available on compact discs for interactive use for further site analysis, visual reference and project planning. When presented in digital

formats, maps can be ‘zoomed’ and ‘panned’ for better viewing of specific site locations. Maps were compiled using Geographic Information Systems and include multiple layers of natural resource types and infrastructure features that can be updated as ground conditions change and evolve. Maps are linked to the Blaine County Geographic Information Systems Survey Control Network. Maps are intended for on-going fire planning and management use in conjunction with Blaine County Geographic Information Systems.

Your Fire Mitigation Plan is presented in various media formats that allow for easy updating and access by a varied number of users. This flexible plan format is intended to provide the user with an overview of Fire Mitigation Goals that represent Desired Outcomes for the fire agencies involved. Objectives and Actions serve as recommendations of the Alpine Enterprise Inc. Fire Mitigation Planning Team. They also direct and aid the user in accomplishing Goals in an organized and timely manner. The on-going use of this interactive set of planning tools will serve local fire agencies in promoting and creating Firewise communities throughout Blaine County.

A Brief Summary of some target Fire Mitigation Recommendations in the Blaine County Community at Risk Fire Mitigation Plan

- Implement the Educational Goal of the Action Plan to organize groups and complete the Public Awareness Campaign / Education on behalf of all jurisdictions.
- Lease/Rent or Purchase fuels reduction equipment (chippers, chainsaws, pruners, etc.) for use by local jurisdictions to reduce fuel loading. Use the Fuels Reduction Goal, Fuels Reduction Spreadsheets, and Hazard Maps to focus fuel reduction efforts.
- As part of the Firewise Goal; Motivational Objective; Government Incentives Item provide incentives to homeowners to retrofit their homes to meet fire safety standards.
- Use the Education Goal; Demonstration; Professional Trades Items to coordinate cooperative educational efforts with architects, contractors, landscapers, planners, building and fire officials.
- Using the Code Goal Recommendation promote the adoption of consistent codes for all jurisdictions of the county.
- Encourage the formation of Water Districts to provide the required fire protection water supplies for subdivisions. Use the Firewise Goal; Water Issues Objective; Fire Protection Water Supply Action Item.
- Enable E-911 and consolidated dispatch using the Firefighter Safety Goal; Interoperability Objective; Consolidation Action Item.
- The County GIS Coordinator should maintain current accessible map layers for all emergency service providers.
- Support cooperative agreements between local state and federal agencies and promote the Partnership Goal.
- Provide financial and technical assistance to agencies that do not have independent assistance agreements for fire mitigation.
- Require fire safety planning for those portions of the county that are not in a fire district or city.
- Encourage using the Partnership Goal and the Community Objective to support the ongoing prevention and suppression efforts in Blaine County.
- Support local code officials with enforcement of existing laws, codes and ordinances (i.e. illegal fireworks sales).
- Using the Economic Goal of the Plan evaluate economic impact of a catastrophic fire and support implementation of Firewise Strategies.
- Provide leadership and funding for a countywide Emergency Operations Plan and Emergency Operations Center.

- Support the Infrastructure Goal; Communication Objective to standardize all communications equipment and enhance operability.
- As part of the Firewise Goal; Motivational Objective; Government Incentives Item provide incentives to homeowners to retrofit their homes to meet fire safety standards.
- Provide technical expertise and assistance for fire agencies, cities and districts wanting to relocate or establish fire stations using the Growth Goal; County-wide Council Objective; Action Items- Automatic and Area of Response, Service Consolidation and Fire Station Location, to meet the growth needs of the county.